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Yvonne Farley

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LIBRARIES

August/September 1992

VOL. 45, NO. 4

LIBRARIANS ATTEND CONFERENCE ON RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INFORMATION ACCESS

By Sue Eichelberger

West Virginia was well represented at a national conference dealing with rural economic development and information access in the United States, held June 4 - 6 in Clarion, Pa. Clarion University is the home of the National Center for the Study of Rural Librarianship. The conference focused on infrastructure, leadership, libraries, and telecommunications. The program also included the initial reporting of a national study on the role of the rural public library, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education.

Fifteen states were represented at the conference. Attending from the Alpha Regional Library were Ed Rauh, Director of Alpha and Jackson County Libraries and Sue Eichelberger, Assistant Director. From Calhoun County were Glada Stump, Librarian, Carole Walker, Assistant Librarian, and Dora Starcher, Trustee. Suzette Lowe, Librarian and Vickie Neeley, Assistant Librarian attended from Clay County. Doddridge County was represented by Sheila McCutchan, Technical Assistant, and Pearl Jett, President, Board of Trustees and from Ritchie County were Jane Hearne, Branch Librarian and Thresa Prunty, Assistant Librarian. Also attending from Jackson County were Lynn Pauley and Suzy McGinley and from Upshur County, Beth Nicholson, Director.



First Row, left to right: Sheila McCutchen, Thresa Prunty, Jane Hearne, Ed Rauh, Beth Nicholson, Chab Guthrie.

Second Row, left to right: Glada Stump, Suzette Lowe, Vickie Neeley, Sue Eichelberger, Suzy McGinley, Lynn Pauley.

Third Row, left to right: Clarion Graduate Student, Carole Walker.

Not Pictured, Trustees: Pearl Jett and Dora Starcher.

WHAT'S INSIDE:

Library News from around
the state page 4

Reading Buddies in
Pineville page 10

Conference
Program page 9

King Arthur page 11

EDITOR'S WORDS

I've been thinking again about what libraries are. To me libraries are about books and people. Some people would say information and people. (And yes, I know, books are not the only format.) Libraries are always about service to people. If we are to survive as worthwhile institutions, we should be dancing to the music of our patrons and meeting their needs.

Since July I have been working at three different locations. I know that many of you have had difficulty reaching me by telephone. I apologize for that and for the fact that this is the first issue of *WEST VIRGINIA LIBRARIES* which has not been published on schedule since I began working on it about 10 years ago.

If you need to reach me I have an answering machine at home. Please leave a message and I will return the call as soon as I can. My number is 727-3011.

Yvonne Farley

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

While most of my living, breathing moments lately are involved with the annual conference, I have still had time to read about West Virginia Libraries in several different publications. The latest *VTLS EXPRESS* ran an article concerning Summers County Public Library and its VTLS link with three area schools. Congratulations, Myra Ziegler, this is exactly what I meant by "libraries working together". I am kept well informed about the Mary H. Weir library by my mother in Weirton. She recently sent me a picture and article from the June 11th *WEIRTON DAILY TIMES* reporting that library's 34th anniversary. Happy Anniversary, Mary H. Weir Public Library. I have also read an article in a recent issue of *WILSON LIBRARY BULLETIN* by Mary Lou Pratt at the Cabell County Public Library. A good job, Mary Lou. It is great to see these opportunities for others to find out about the good things that are happening in the libraries in West Virginia.

The May 29th *HERALD DISPATCH* ran an article entitled "Report: Students Spend Little Time Reading". The article covered the fact that the less TV watched, the better the student's reading proficiency. The result of this report was to say to parents and teachers "that with a few simple changes in the way we live, we can make dramatically different strides in how our children read". Isn't it a shame that nowhere in the article was the library or the literacy program mentioned as a way to teach and encourage reading, as well as providing a multitude of reading materials. We really do have our work cut out for us.

Conference time is coming near. I hope that you will have a good time at the conference this year. I think it is important to enjoy ourselves and relax, as well as, learn new theories and techniques of librarianship. So please bring your sense of humor with you (as well as your dancing shoes, or do I mean boots) and I'll see you in Parkersburg, October 15-17th, 1992.

Pam Ford

WEST VIRGINIA

LIBRARIES

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Deadline for materials: October 1, 1992; November 15, 1992, January 15, 1993; March 15, 1993.

TRUSTEES UPDATE

By Russell Fry

As Chair of the Trustee Section, I can tell you that from my perspective, WVLA appears to be as effective and efficiently operated as the state's libraries. I hope that all of you realize that those members of your library's staff who devote time and effort to the association are truly doing a service to all West Virginia's libraries and their users.

Yvonne Farley, editor of this newsletter, and Pam Ford President of the association, have been particularly helpful to me in forming the Trustees program for the workshops and the fall conference. Books aren't the only resources in libraries; librarians are incredibly resourceful people.

As I look over the Conference schedule, I noticed at least ten programs that I think will be of interest to Trustees. Take another look at the program that was mailed with the conference information, isn't there a program that would benefit your library? Let's try to make this a record year for Trustee attendance at the conference in Parkersburg.

Each of you receives copies of this newsletter on a regular basis and through the newsletter you can be aware of what is going on throughout the state. Has your library had an article in the newsletter lately? A great deal of effort goes into producing the newsletter and those who submit articles and particularly the editor of the newsletter are to commended for their efforts.

PEOPLE

At the ALA Conference in San Francisco, **Frederic Glazer**, Executive Director of the West Virginia Library Commission, received the "Certificate of Recognition" from the public relations section of the Library Administration and Management Association. The award was for "outstanding contributions and goals, and advancement of library public relations." Glazer was also honored when ALA opened its conference with a video tape of Glazer and Governor Gaston Caperton talking to 55 school students who were participating in "Read Your Way to the Governor's Office."

Victorine Louistall Monroe was inducted into West Virginia University's Order of Vandalia, the University's highest honor. She was cited as the first African-American to earn a graduate degree from the university and the first faculty member to hold the rank of professor. She served as an advisor for undergraduate and graduate students in library sciences and since her retirement, has been a member of the WVU Board of Advisors and the state Library Commission.

Jo Ellen Butcher completed the two and one-half year Middle Management Institute through Special Libraries Association in June at the 83rd annual conference in San Francisco. The 75-hour program focuses on the needs of information professionals with five or more years of management experience. This certificate program sharpens participants' skills through a combination of expert instruction and interactive learning exercises. Five different topics are covered during the program, but a major benefit of participation has been the networking with a large and diverse group of librarians throughout the world.

Anna Smucker, former children's librarian at Clarksburg Public Library, will have her second children's book, "**OUTSIDE THE WINDOW**," published by Knopf, Inc. "**NO STAR NIGHTS**" won the International Reading Association's 1990 Children's Book Award. Anna is currently Harrison County's writer in residence for the schools, and recently hosted successful writing workshops at Lowe Library, Southern Area Library, and the Benedum Civic Center.

NOMINATIONS FOR ANNUAL WVLA AWARDS

The Resolutions and Awards Committee is now seeking nominations for 1992 recipients of the Certificate of Merit, Dora Ruth Parks and the Literary Merit Awards.

The Certificate of Merit is given to an individual for service to libraries and librarianship in West Virginia.

The Dora Ruth Parks Award is also given to an individual who has contributed long and outstanding service to libraries and librarianship.

The Literary Merit Award is for an outstanding publication by a West Virginia author. (An exception may be made if the author is not a West Virginian, but has made an outstanding contribution to Appalachian literature.)

Nominations must be made by a WVLA member and sent to:

Judith Duncan
Kanawha County Public Library
123 Capitol Street
Charleston, WV 25301
by September 15th!

We have many capable and outstanding people who are supporting libraries in our state - in one way or another -and please share their dedication, hard work and success by nominating them for the appropriate award.

Remember - deadline is September 15th!!!

WVLA
Fall Conference
Parkersburg, WV
October 15-17, 1992

LIBRARY NEWS FROM AROUND THE STATE

DODDRIDGE COUNTY LIBRARY CELEBRATING 40TH BIRTHDAY

By Sue Eichelberger



Seated, left to right: Betty Hunt, Librarian, Dorothy Bode, Sheila McCutchan, Technical Assistant, and Cathy Ash, Assistant Librarian

Standing, left to right: Trustees: Sturley Stalnaker, Alton Childers, Edwin Bode, Veda Davis, and Pearl Jett

The library first opened its doors to the public in 1952 after a group of interested citizens requested the Doddridge County Commission to establish, equip and maintain a public library.

The library was first located in the basement of the Court House but in 1965, through the combined efforts of local citizens, clubs and organizations and with the help of the Benedum Foundation, the Library Board of Trustees was able to purchase the historic Opera House in West Union where the library is still located.

Board Secretary/Treasurer, Veda Davis is a charter member of the board and has served as secretary for the entire 40 years and treasurer for 25 years.

Pearl Jett, who has been a member of the board for 27 years, has served as its president for the past 20 years and Sturley Stalnaker, vice-president, has been a member for 25 years, where he's served as their Alpha Regional Board member for the past 23 years.

Other trustees who have faithfully served the library are Edwin Bode, a member for 7 years and Alton Childers, a member for 6 years.

Librarian Betty Hunt, has served the library since 1974 and was named to her current position in 1988. Cathy Ash is the Assistant Librarian, Sheila McCutchan is Technical Assistant and Jeannie Taylor is the Branch Librarian.

The Library trustees and staff hosted a 40th Anniversary Open House on April 20th.

Congratulation to Doddridge County on 40 years of service!

SUMMERS COUNTY LIBRARY LINKS TO LOCAL SCHOOLS

(excerpt from VTLS Express, Spring 1992)

These days the local area network at Summers County Public Library has become a wide area network. The library now has three new microcomputers and three new telephone lines. Each line uses a modem to link to a microcomputer in each of the area's three largest schools, including the county's only high school. All three schools, one of which is 10 miles away, can dial in simultaneously without affecting library operations. At two of the schools, where there is no library, only online searching of the county library's holdings is available. One volunteer teacher serves as "librarian." Written requests are delivered to the county library, which in turn checks out the materials to the school.

At Hinton High School, however, the presence of a school library allows for more extensive use of the system. The high school has cataloged its holdings on the same database as the Summers County Public Library, which houses about 20,000 titles.... In addition, the high school librarian can put books requested by students on hold at the county library, and she also can dial in to the West Virginia Union catalog.

WEIRTON LIBRARY TO OBSERVE 34TH BIRTHDAY

Mary H. Weir Library celebrated its 34th birthday in June. The Friends of the Library sponsored a book sale and provided free lemonade for those who browsed through the books. An open house was also held offering free refreshments, balloons and facepainting as well as information on what is available at the library. Area authors were also honored.

West Virginia Library Association

Executive Board Meeting

Minutes of

May 21, 1992

Parkersburg-Wood County Public Library

There were 17 people present and meeting was called to order at 10:18 A.M. by President Pamela Ford. Minutes of the last board meeting were approved with the correction of the MARLF conference date. A committee will be appointed to decide whether or not to stay a member of MARLF given their cavalier attitude about having their conference in West Virginia.

Dave Childers submitted the Treasurer's report. It was approved.

J. D. Waggoner reported current paid membership of 410 people.

Matt Onion discussed plans for the fall conference. There will be a reception Friday evening prior to the banquet at the Parkersburg Museum with transportation being provided between the two locations.

Anndrena Belcher, an Appalachian storyteller, has been confirmed as the keynote speaker for the 1992 fall conference.

Division reports were given by chairs. Most included reports of workshops along with program and organizational information.

Tom Brown, ALA Councilor, reported that Linda Crismond, the Executive Director of ALA, has resigned effective May 12th with some indication of hostility. An ALA report about patron behavior and library usage was shared, but it really does not give much of a sense of direction. A major issue now before ALA is who will elect the Executive Board - the Council or the general membership.

Karen Goff, SELA Representative, reported their conference in New Orleans was great and that Judy Rule's workshop on Intellectual Freedom was one of the best presentations at the conference.

Changes proposed to the Constitution & Bylaws Committee by the WVLA Executive Board have been made and will be brought before the membership for approval at the fall conference.

New logos have been approved for the Marketing Committee for sweatshirts, T-shirts, and library bags.

Steve Christo and the Handbook Committee have made great strides in updating the Handbook of Organization but still have material to collect and organize.

A slate of officers for WVLA 1992-93 has been presented and accepted by the Board.

Danny McMillion has received correspondence asking for program ideas for the National PLA conference in 1994 in Atlanta, Georgia. If anyone knows of a good program or presenter please let Danny know. There is no honorarium for the speaker however, and there will be no expenses paid. The registration fee will be waived the day the program is presented.

Advertising rates have been changed for West Virginia Libraries. Fliers are now being designed to reflect these changes.

Pamela Ford set up an ad hoc committee to study cooperative collection development in the state. The committee met and an initial plan of operation has been submitted with money being set aside for their needed mailing costs.

Six officers from WVLA have been approved to attend a conference in Atlanta on training.

Next Board meeting will be September 3rd at 10:00 A.M. at the Day's Inn in Flatwoods.

Meeting adjourned at 12:34 P.M.

KIRKUS AWARD TO COMBAT ILLITERACY

An award of \$1000.00 will be given in recognition of outstanding contributions by a volunteer in the battle against illiteracy in the Appalachian Region.

The Kirkus Award to Combat Illiteracy was first given in the Fall of 1985 and each year thereafter to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution in the battle against illiteracy in the Appalachian Region of Kentucky, Virginia and West Virginia. This year's award will be offered only to a West Virginian.

The award of \$1000, initiated by James & Hope Koback, Chairman and President of Kirkus, will be funded by Kirkus with matching monies from the John D. Koback Appalachian Educational Foundation. The award honors John Koback, son of Hope and James Koback, who died of cancer in 1970 and who had spent his life teaching the people of depressed coal mining areas in Kentucky and Virginia.

Nomination forms are available from the West Virginia Library Commission. Nominations will be judged by an Award Selection Committee and the award winner will be announced publicly on Friday, October 16, 1992, at the Award Banquet during the annual meeting of the West Virginia Library Association in Parkersburg.

Nominees for the Kirkus Award should be volunteers who have made significant contributions to fight illiteracy in his or her community. All nominations are to be submitted to Shirley Smith by Tuesday, September 15, 1992.

FOR YOUR LIBRARY

PARADISE PARK

Review by Rick Wilson

If your library can only buy one video this year, let it be "Paradise Park." Danny Boyd, our leading home grown filmmaker, has produced a work of lasting value with his third feature film. It is authentically, gently and comically West Virginian and is a worthy but very different companion piece to "Matewan."

"Paradise Park," a trailer park that could be just about anywhere in the state, is inhabited by characters that are eccentric but instantly recognizable to any West Virginian. In spite of hard times, unemployment, family problems and the host of ills that come with the hills, they form a caring and humane community and share that invisible bond that holds people to the mountains and sustains them through long lean years.

The story begins when an elderly resident receives a message that God will visit Paradise Park the following night and grant everyone a wish. The hopes, dreams and disappointments of the people are brought to life in a series of funny and touching fantasy sequences as the awaited moment approaches.

"Paradise Park" will appeal to just about anyone who has lived in—or even passed through—West Virginia. And it's an excellent introduction to our state for friendly "outsiders."

I think that librarians here have a special duty to preserve and develop our native culture whenever possible by "buying West Virginian." In that category, the cost of "Paradise Park" is likely to be the best money you'll ever spend.

SHILOH

Review by Terri L. McDougal

Now that most of the furor over this year's Newbery winner, "Shiloh", has seemed to settle down, perhaps it is time to take a look at it from one West Virginia children's librarian's point of view. Did Phyllis Reynolds Naylor really mean to stereotype Marty and his family? Or, are we as people who live in West Virginia, just being overly sensitive?

Unfortunately, there don't seem to be any easy answers for these questions. I admit to personally having some misgivings about Ms. Naylor's portrayal of Marty Preston and his family - the opening page where the family is eating a dinner of fried rabbit, the now infamous scene on page 40 where Marty gives his lard and jelly sandwich to the dog, Shiloh, instead of eating it himself. And was it simply my imagination or did Marty's grammar improve dramatically during the second half of the book?

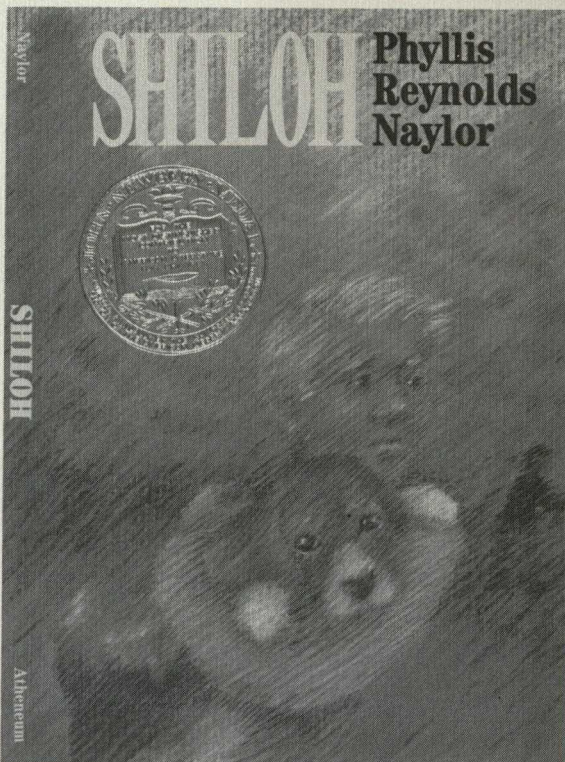
Yes, I do wonder about the children and adults alike who will read this book and will believe that this is how all people in West Virginia live. I realize that there are still people in this state who do indeed live like this. I also realize, however, that this is not the case for the majority of the people. Why then do we need to see one more book written as a reminder of how most people still view us?

However, as a classic story of a boy and a dog, I was deeply moved by Ms. Naylor's writing. She appeared to capture the essence of Marty's moral dilemma concerning his taking of and caring for Shiloh. She anticipated and examined each of Marty's questions and challenges that she knew he would face in a showdown with Judd Travers over the ownership of Shiloh.

Despite this, I truly felt as if I were reading two different books. When Ms. Reynolds concentrated on the growing love between Marty and Shiloh, I was able to relax and enjoy the book. Sadly to say, I could not do this with the first half because of the portrayal of the Preston family.

If you haven't read the book yet, I suggest that you pick it up and read it - even if it is "just" a children's book. You may be surprised at the heated discussions the book will generate.

SHILOH by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor (Atheneum: New York), 1991.



VTLS INC. DEVELOPS PROTOTYPE OF AN ELECTRONIC ENCYCLOPEDIA

VTLS Inc. has developed a prototype of an electronic encyclopedia that incorporates full text now and will soon incorporate image into the current VTLS software. The development of the prototype was made possible by a technological demonstration grant from BRA BOCKER, the publishers of the Swedish National Encyclopedia. Using existing VTLS features and the current VTLS database structure, the prototype allows VTLS users to search for information in an online encyclopedia just as they would search for a book or periodical in a library's catalog.

In the implementation of the electronic encyclopedia, a Hewlett-Packard 3000 computer stores the file indexing system and acts as a file server for the data, which is maintained in a separate database. The HP computer stores full text (and soon images), which can be accessed with one VTLS microcomputer. VTLS-IW acts as a client to the HP machine, which acts as a server. The system provides an easy-to-use interface to the encyclopedia information.

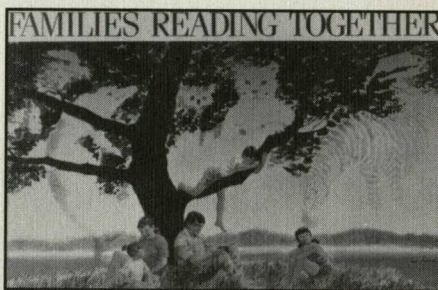
Access to the multimedia encyclopedia is seamlessly integrated with the VTLS online public access catalog. First, VTLS-IW accepts and interprets the encyclopedia user's commands. Next, it interacts with VTLS running on the HP computer. Then it formats and displays the text (and images) associated with the user's request. In this way, a user is able to browse an alphabetical index of the encyclopedia, pull up full text (and images), and through hypermedia links, find related materials contained in the library's collection.

Converting books into high quality, machine-readable text and images that can be disseminated over a network means efficient information access. It also holds the promise of liberating the information worker from locational barriers to information access," said Kari Marklund, chief editor of the Swedish National Encyclopedia. "Our interest in funding this unusual project was to experiment with alternative delivery channels for the vast information contained in the National Encyclopedia."

FAMILIES THAT READ TOGETHER HAVE GREAT FUN

"Families Reading Together," a new poster set from the Children's Book Council, emphasizes the importance of reading and of spending time with family. Each illustration gets across the message that sharing a book with family members is a warm and intimate experience that brings everyone closer together. Four full-color posters, measuring 13" x 19" each are available as a set for \$18.00. Send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Children's Book Council, 568 Broadway, Suite 404, New York, NY 10012 for "Materials Brochure" details.

The Children's Book Council is a non-profit association of 67 children's and young adult trade book publishers. It is also the official sponsor of national Children's Book Week. Proceeds from the sale of materials support the council's projects that promote literacy and encourage the reading and enjoyment of books among young people.



Ted Rand's poster depicts a father reading aloud to his family outdoors, while their imaginations populate the sky with airborne animals hidden in the clouds and trees. It

is available along with three other posters by Pat Cummings, Patricia Polacco and Jeanne Titherington.

ALA SUPPORTS GATEWAYS TO INFO

"The American Library Association (ALA) believes that the federal government has an affirmative obligation to make information available to the public through depository libraries and other channels, regardless of format or ability to pay," said Patricia Glass Schuman, ALA immediate past president.

Schuman recently testified in favor of legislation proposed in the House and Senate for an electronic gateway to government information to be established at the Government Printing Office. The joint hearing was held by the Committee on House Administration and the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration on HR 2772, the GPO WINDO bill, and S. 2813, the Gateway to Government Act.

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STREET SCENES

Review by Yvonne Farley

A strange thing happened when I was working on putting this short review together. I spoke by telephone with Pat Love's close friend, Michael Pauley to gather some ideas about Love's book. I was to have called Pauley back for some more information, but life intervened. Within a few weeks after the conversation, Pauley died of a heart attack.

I do have one quote on a piece of notebook paper from Pauley about this book of poetry. He said that Pat Love "is a poet to be taken seriously and this book proves it." There are some poems in this book which have stuck with me.

One of them is "Divergent Paths" which is about "the wild poet of Richwood" as Love calls him, the late Joe Barrett. Joe was a legendary person among the West Virginia poets. For no particular reason other than the lines evoke Joe, I remember, "Through the wine soaked haze, we screamed metaphors at the advancing dawn, as if some Olympian presence would hear and in appreciation release us into the clarity." I don't know the occasion but every year the poets used to gather on Bob Baber's farm outside Richwood for poetry readings and immortal parties.

Another poem which caught my attention was "Antietam in July." Anyone who has been there is struck with the still lingering presence of death. Love captures this with, "The ghosts whisper curses a century old across the invisible lines of combat as the heat ripples off the tombstones."

There are poems about meeting an old flame in the 7-11, rejection in a singles bar, and even the Writer's Conference of 1987. I think most West Virginians would like to read these poems by a West Virginia poet.

Pat Love has been president of the West Virginia Writers for two terms and is author of another book of poetry, *BRIDGES OVER REALITY*, 1988. He is currently employed as a lithographer for the West Virginia Library Commission, is 46, a father and a grandfather.

Love, Pat, STREET SCENES, (Appalachian Literary League, Charleston, WV), 1992. Order from the author, 1617 McClung St., Charleston, WV 25311.

ALA ADOPTS UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE ACT RESOLUTION

The American Library Association (ALA) has joined the growing list of organizations supporting the Universal Health Care Act. The action was taken by the ALA council, the association's governing body, during the Annual Meeting, June 25 - July 2 in San Francisco.

The act, introduced by Rep. Marty Russo (D-ILL.) and Senator Paul Wellstone (D-Minn.), would establish a system of single-payer, Canadian-style national health insurance.

INFO ON THE CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Using the theme "Libraries Working Together" the 1992 WVLA Conference, scheduled for October 15-17 in historic Parkersburg, promises to be a place to make new friends of colleagues from across the state, to share information we have individually gathered or developed, and most importantly, to have a good time and smile.

Leading off this year's agenda will be Peter R. Young, the Executive Director of the US National Commission on Libraries and Information Science, who will speak during the First General Session. In this capacity he ensures his agency's services are adequate to meet the needs of the nation. An in keeping with this year's theme, his address is entitled "Shared Knowledge: Library Community Networks."

The President's Program concerning the collaborative efforts between libraries will introduce Dr. Paul Kobulnicky from the University of Pittsburgh. His discussion will center on the cooperative collection developments recently taking place in the Pittsburgh area libraries.

Andrea Leyko, a training specialist with the Pittsburgh Regional Library Center, will explain PRISM: a new interlibrary loan subsystem that will become a reality for OCLC libraries in December. Mary Lynn Kingston, also from PRLC will conduct a class on learning the MARC format for cataloguers.

The director of the Ohio County Library, Harve Tannenbaum, will give a lecture titled "Living with a Computer Software Collection," detailing the problems associated with a library's decision to circulate computer software. Speaking of problems, Linda Miller and Ann Hendriksson will lead a discussion on a problem facing every library: government documents. This program will identify specific government documents that non-depository libraries will find useful.

Leonard P. Oliver, a Staff Associate of the Kettering Foundation, will help place the library funding issue into context by looking at new ways to perceive the library and its various sources of revenue, including both the public and private sectors. His speech is titled, "Reframing the Library Funding Issue."

Overall, the conference programs appear wide-ranging and very informative. For those of you eager for your next clue to the mystery speaker, here you go: He is a "noted wit." Please take the time to seriously consider attending this year's conference. Your library depends upon you as its personal source of information, so please join us in beautiful, historic Parkersburg. You won't want to miss it!!!

READING BUDDIES IN PINEVILLE: Summer Program Encourages Reading

By Danny McMillion

The child watched in fascination as the man slowly slipped the bark from the maple twig in one smooth cylindrical piece. Carefully laying the bark aside he cut two slivers of wood from the twig and made a small notch near the middle, then slipped the piece of bark back and handed the youngster her first homemade whistle.

It did not matter, on that sunny afternoon outside the library, that more than fifty-seven years separated the two. A maple bark whistle and a love of books and reading melded the minds of mentor and minor. Russell Reed and six year old Heather Hall are Reading Buddies. Reading Buddies is the brainchild of the Pineville Friends of the Library. This summer twenty-two adults and as many children were randomly paired at the Pineville Library in Wyoming County with the twin goals of exploring the library and reading for fun while surreptitiously maintaining the youngsters reading skills over the summer. Eighteen of those pairings survived vacations, schedule juggling that involved work and office hours on the part of the adults and cheerleading, little league practice and camp on the part of youngsters.

The readers were not confined to activities inside the library. Robert Browning, president of the Friends and a prominent lawyer in town, took his Reading Buddy, Cadence Reed, for a walk around town reading all the signs. Young Cadence now recognizes all the signs, reads them to family and friends at every opportunity, and can find any business in town. She knows the names of the streets and it would be difficult to lose her in Pineville.

Billy Thompson, a twelve-year-old boy with excellent reading skills and an agile mind, profited from Reading Buddie by learning to ask ole Noah Webster about every word whose meaning he did not know. His Reading Buddy took him to Twin Falls State Park for a geology tour when Billy's curiosity about rocks outgrew the confines of the books in the library. There he dug tons of shale, discovering three fine fossil specimens which are on display at the Pineville Library.

He and his Reading Buddy explored knot tying when Billy planned a trip to his grandmother's house

which was near a river where Billy and another young friend proposed to launch a raft constructed of barrels lashed with rope to poles cut from the nearby woods. Using pop cans to simulate the barrels and sections of bamboo for the poles Billy and Danny McMillion constructed a miniature of the raft he wanted to build experimenting with knots from **STRING TYING IT UP, TYING IT DOWN** by Jan Adkins, until they found just the ones that would hold the raft together.

Later Billy reported that the "river" was too shallow to support the barrel raft so he and his friend used logs and made a raft that floated downstream taking this modern day Tom Sawyer and Huck Finn on a fine adventure.

Ever crafty, adult Reading Buddies introduced their young companions to the joys of constructing every craft from a painted T-shirt for a Father's Day gift to wooden earrings for mom. Wooden tie racks and pot holder sets kept Heather and Russell busy for several meetings. Young Allie Brewer and her Reading Buddy, Ellen Church, carefully glued beans, rice and other seeds onto tiny tiles making refrigerator magnets to hold important notes and artwork.

Virginia Phillips and Addie Brewer played computer reading games whilst the director's office resounded with the squeals of childish excitement usually reserved for video arcades. Addie exercised her excellent artistic eye in making a poster promoting reading. Other Reading Buddies constructed collages, made decorated sweat shirts, took nature walks using library books to identify treasures found along the way, worked jigsaw puzzles of the United States and played West Virginia trivia.

Recruiting adult Reading Buddies from among the eighty-two members of the Pineville Friends was easy. An orientation meeting was held in June where adults received instruction on book selection, making reading fun for the children, using books to supplement other activities, etc.

Locating youngsters willing to devote warm summer mornings or afternoons to what they supposed would be dull old books was a little harder. We talked to classroom teachers, emphasizing that we did not propose to be professional tutors and that our pur-

Reading Buddies in Pineville*(Continued from Previous Page)*

pose was to provide a positive book experience for the children.

The library staff talked to children as they signed up for the Summer Reading Program and to parents and grandparents. The adults and children were randomly paired by the program chair. The parents of the child were given the name and phone number of the adult Reading Buddy and the child's name and other information was given to the adult Reading Buddy. Participants made their own arrangements and the Friends asked only that the meeting take place at the library at least once a week.

This program was not limited to those who were perceived as "needing it". Some of our young readers were slow readers, others were avid library users, but all profited from the Reading Buddies.

Without exception the adults report having had more fun than they believed possible. They found themselves dusting off unused library research skills to help the youngsters find out what they wanted to know. They found new joy in old stories as they shared them with the youngsters and discovered new favorites. Fast inter-generational friendships were formed, many which have carried over into the participants non-library lives.

At last count eighty-two meeting between Reading Buddies had been logged at the Pineville Library circulation desk. Both youngsters and adults can hardly wait until next summer when they can do it again.

ALA SEEKS HOSTS FOR KING ARTHUR EXHIBITION

The American Library Association (ALA), the Newberry Library in Chicago and the New York Public Library are investigating the development of a traveling panel exhibition, collaborative exhibition and tabletop exhibition on the legend of King Arthur.

Titled "The Many Realms of King Arthur," the exhibitions would draw upon the unparalleled Arthuriana collections of the Newberry and New York Public Libraries.

"The story of King Arthur, his knights and Queen Guinevere is a timely subject for an exhibition that will travel widely and be seen by a diverse modern audience," said Deb Robertson, ALA director of Public Programs. "The Arthurian legend addresses issues such as love, loyalty and duty, and raises questions about just warfare, codes of morality, idealism and other subjects that have been debated throughout history."

ALA and the Newberry and New York Public Libraries will apply to the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) in March 1993 for an implementation grant to develop the exhibitions. If the project is funded, the traveling panel exhibition will tour to approximately 75 public libraries during 1995 and 1996.

Libraries interested in hosting a King Arthur panel exhibition are asked to send a one to two page letter to Deb Robertson, ALA Public Programs, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611 by December 1, 1992.

The letter should address the reason you would like to host such an exhibition, programs your library could offer with the exhibition and the amount of space you have available for an exhibition. (Exhibitions of this type commonly require 60-100 feet of floor space, but they do not have to be in a straight line.)

FOR YOUR LIBRARY*(Continued from Page 6)***Additional West Virginia Authors and Books**

Sherwood, Dolly, **HARRIET HOSMER: AMERICAN SCULPTOR: 1830-1908** (University of Missouri Press, Columbia), 1991. \$29.95 Dolly Sherwood is a Charleston resident who has written a very sensitive biography of Massachusetts-born sculptor, Harriet Hosmer. A *Choice* review says that "Sherwood's description of Hosmer's relationships to women and of her associations with the circle of Charlotte Cushman is reasoned, intelligent and sensitive."

Griffin, Dot R. and Terry R. Griffin, **LET'S HEAR IT FOR HERBS!**, (Granny Lavender Press: Emory, Va.), 1992.

"To grow herbs is to soothe the soul and invite good fortune." This unique book was written by Dot Griffin of St. Marys, West Virginia, and her son, Terry. More than 200 great recipes are given as well as instructions for capturing and using the fragrance of herbs in pot pourri, sachets, etc. Unusual facts, folklore, and practical information. Special chapter on herbs from the Bible. Order from Granny Lavender Press, No. 6 Linden Avenue, Box MM, Emory, VA., 24327

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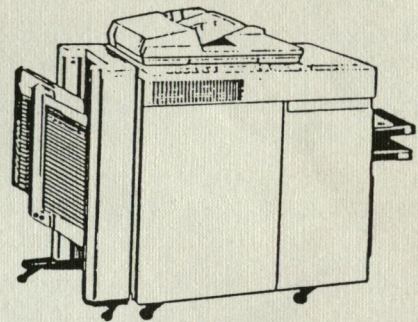
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